

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]  
A FARMER'S VIEW OF PUBLIC OFFICE.

MR. EDITOR:—Just a word in regard to the nomination for Governor. I notice that the friends of certain aspirants for that nomination claim that their particular favorites are "entitled" to it, for the reason that in campaigns heretofore they have remained true to the party and aided in the election of its candidates; and although they have not been rewarded with the highest office in the gift of the people of the State, have not deserted to the enemy. Office holders, from the highest to the lowest, in our country, are only servants of the people, who are the best judges of those whom they wish to know by such service; and if there is any aspirant for the office of Governor who thinks that he is peculiarly entitled to be thus honored.

Your correspondent hopes and believes that the convention will ignore them for a less presumptuous citizen, or else it will not represent the intelligence and virtue of North Carolina. We want a man who will "stand up to the rack, fodder or no fodder," and one who thinks he deserves no particular credit for it. Such a man is he whom I am glad to know the representative paper of the great agricultural interest advocates for the nomination. I refer to Capt. Syd. Alexander, of Mecklenburg county. Capt. Alexander's nomination will be equivalent to an election at the polls by from twenty to fifty thousand majority, not because he is entitled to it any more than hundreds and thousands of other true and capable Democrats, but because he is eminently fitted to serve the people just at this time in that position, and because he is a representative man of, by far, the greatest interest in our State—the agricultural. And if the farmers of North Carolina wish to vote for their choice one time in a generation, they should give a little time to politics by attending the county conventions and sending delegates to the State Convention who will represent their wishes in this matter.

The efficient chairman of our county commissioners voiced the sentiment of a large majority of the Democratic voters of old Warren when he wrote the editor of the *News and Observer* that Capt. Alexander was their first choice. In the earlier and better days of the government, old Warren furnished two farmer Governors to the State, Turner in 1802 and Hawkins in 1811. She also furnished for many years two U. S. Senators and four members of the U. S. House, who were farmers, among whom were the Hons. Nathaniel Macom and Weldon N. Edwards.

Let us try to return to those better days of purer politics, and I do not know a better beginning than to place a competent and honest tiller of the soil at the helm of State. Capt. Alexander "fills the bill," and his commanding presence and manly and honest face, with his practical knowledge and good judgment, will command more votes for Governor, by far, than any man whose name has been mentioned in connection with the position. So believe, so say, and so will vote the people of

WARREN.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]  
THE PUBLIC ROADS AGAIN.

POLENTA, N. C., April 19, '88.

MR. EDITOR:—In your paper of March 6th there was an article in regard to working the public roads, and in your issue of March 20th my reply to said communication. In the April 3d number a rejoinder from your Lemay correspondent appears, which to say the least, will compare favorably with the Henry George theory of harangue or almost any other issue that is being now propagated in the land. In the first place, he starts out with the assertion that nobody works the roads except the poor man, or at least intimates as much. The Code of North Carolina shows that all able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 45 are subject to road duty, and there are no exemptions save magistrates and ministers of the Gospel. Even doctors and millers now have to work them; yet your Lemay correspondent would make the impression that none, except the poor, work. He then cites the fact of jurors being paid, and that it is as fair to pay a man for working the road as to serve as a juror. The legislative department makes the laws; the judicial, including the jurors, as an indispensable appendage, executes them, and everybody knows we must raise revenue to pay them, or law and order would at once cease, and we would be in as bad a

condition as just after the close of the late war. Then the road hands, both rich and poor, work in their immediate neighborhood, not going more than two or three miles, while the juror sometimes has to go twenty or twenty-five miles and serve a week or fortnight, and perhaps board at a hotel. Oh, but your Lemay correspondent says the poor man with his own tools who works hard for the man of the fine plantation and extorting merchant "is not benefited individually in the least," while in the same article he admits that everybody is benefited by good roads. Oh consistency, what a jewel! As for myself, I always—and I suppose it is the general custom—furnish the hands living with me whatever tools the overseer calls for and a mule and plow also if he wants them, and often never charge them the day as lost to them, especially if they come back to work, if they get through in half a day, which is frequently the case.

As to your Lemay correspondent's strong point, as he evidently regards it—my comparison of the school tax with the road law—I beg leave to dissent in toto from his view. The road law bears equally upon all of road age; the school fund, in a great measure, is for the benefit of those who pay comparatively but little into the treasury; in a great many instances, according to Maj. Finger's statement, absolutely nothing. Of course there are exceptions to this rule. Hundreds who pay the heaviest tax are not benefited a cent, except as I stated in my first article, to diffuse general education, which is well spent in perpetuating republican institutions. If a tenant of mine raises a surplus to sell, is he not benefited by good roads, mutually with myself, to carry his produce to market? Ought he not work a few days when necessary for the public good? Is not the same applicable to the hand who works for ten dollars cash per month and runs no risk from drouth or low prices. Either can sue in our courts, if necessary, as a pauper though his case may cost the taxpayer of his county hundreds of dollars, and he not pay a cent of it, for he has as much protection as the most powerful in the land. We still insist that our road laws are ample and sufficient. All that is needed is to firmly enforce them. Appoint overseers who will take a pride in having good roads, and we will hear but little complaint from this source.

J. J. YOUNG.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]  
SOMETHING OF IMPORTANCE TO FARMERS.

April 19, 1888.

COL. POLK:—As my last article did not find its way to the waste basket, I will write again. No one will know, from the heading of this piece, what I am going to write about, as there are so many things of vast importance to farmers. Perhaps the most important thing that should occupy every farmer's attention now is who shall be Governor of North Carolina the next term? Me thinks I hear the response coming from the North, South, East and West, from every farmer and every laboring man, and thousands of others, "Capt. S. B. Alexander." Then again I hear a few who oppose the farmers' interests say: "Alexander won't do for our Governor." Ask them why, and not an objection can they raise. Capt. S. B. Alexander must be our next Governor, and will be, if every farmer will do his duty. Some may ask what is our duty? Well, let me tell you how S. B. Alexander can be nominated and elected: In every township is held a meeting to elect delegates to attend the county convention there to elect delegates to the State Convention to be held in Raleigh May the 30th. In this county—and I guess it is so in every county in the State—the farmers have heretofore taken comparatively little interest in these conventions, especially in the primary meetings, which I consider the most important of all, and consequently a few politicians—men with axes to grind—have run the whole thing in their own interest entirely, regardless of the poor farmer.

Now, brethren of the plow, I earnestly appeal, personally, to every farmer in the State to be sure and attend these township and county meetings, and don't listen to the poisoned tongues of politicians, but elect good, honest farmers to represent you in these meetings. By so doing there can be no doubt about Capt. Alexander getting the nomination. Then let every farmer, Conservative, Democrat and Republican, go to the ballot box and cast his vote for our Capt. Alexander, and then, once more, after fifty long

years, we will have a Governor elected by farmers, and who will look to their interest. Then again we should not be satisfied to stop here. We must have some farmers to represent us in the next Legislature. The same proceedings will elect them. We are tired of sending lawyers and railroad men to the Legislature to consume the time passing bills in their own interest and heaping tax upon tax upon us, and trying to deprive the poor farmer of what little right he does possess. The idea of trying to prevent you or I from writing our own deeds, if we be capable, and many of us are!

A lawyer told me a few days ago, while talking to him on this subject, that lawyers have to live, as well as any other profession. Well, we don't object to their living, but we do object to their grinding the poor farmer to death that they may live. If they can't find an honest support in their profession, let them find it in the ground, as we do. Some one said "farmers do not know how to make laws." I deny the assertion; there is as much intelligence to be found among the farmers as there is among other professions. Now, brother farmers, we out number any and all other professions, and it is in our power to elect whom we please. Let us come together and place S. B. Alexander at the head of our ticket, and we need fear no evil. Let us, like "Bob Peak" suggested, "turn breast and battle to the storm and fight and strive," and success will be ours.

I call special attention to his article in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of April 17th. I would like to hear from him often. Alexander! Alexander! Let his name ring from mountain to seashore. More anon.

TABBS CREEK.

POULTRY DEPARTMENT.

(We are pleased to announce to the readers of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER that we have been so fortunate as to secure the efficient services of Mr. R. H. Weathers as Editor of this Department. He is one of the best informed men on this subject in the South. He desires that all communications and questions designed for his Department be addressed: "Poultry Column, PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Raleigh, N. C." He will most cheerfully answer all questions relating to poultry through this column. Write him.—EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER.)

Daily Food for Fowls—English Experiment.

In an experiment in England for the purpose of determining the daily amount of food consumed by different breeds of fowls, the following was the result:

|                     | Ounces. | Grains. |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| Dorkins.....        | 6       | 391     |
| Game.....           | 4       | 275     |
| Buff Cochins.....   | 17      | 296     |
| Langshans.....      | 7       | 31      |
| Dominiques.....     | 4       | 336     |
| Brown Leghorns..... | 4       | 338     |
| Hamburgs.....       | 4       | 130     |
| Polish.....         | 4       | 28      |
| Guinea Fowls.....   | 4       | 182     |

It will be seen that the buff cochins eat more than any of the other breeds, and to show the increase of weight in proportion to food consumed, it may be stated that each gained daily as follows for 20 days:

|                     | Grains. | Eggs Per Year Laid. |
|---------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Dorkins.....        | 138     | 130                 |
| Game.....           | 92      | 100                 |
| Buff Cochins.....   | 77      | 115                 |
| Langshans.....      | 123     | 115                 |
| Dominiques.....     | 92      | 110                 |
| Brown Leghorns..... | 107     | 190                 |
| Hamburgs.....       | 92      | 230                 |
| Polish.....         | 43      | 97                  |
| Guineas.....        | —       | 75                  |

It will be noticed that the hamburgs gave the largest number of eggs and the brown leghorns next, but the dorkins and langshans made the largest daily gain in growth, while the cochins, though consuming enormously of food, did not show its effect either in eggs or the first 20 days' growth. Taking the three highest for weight at six months of age, the following was the result: Dorkins weighed 10 pounds 1 ounce and 685 grains; buff cochins weighed 9 pounds 13 1/2 ounces; langshans weighed 10 pounds 5 ounces and 437 grains. The greatest gain was made by the langshans, but for the food allowed the dorkins are entitled to the honor.

We give the above as the result of experiments in England. In this country the conditions would be reversed, perhaps. Hamburgs seldom lay as many as 239 eggs, but in England the climate seems best adapted to both dorkins and hamburgs. In estimating the result, the kind of food should be considered, which was not given; we use corn largely in this country, and hence experiments here would be conducted differently. Chicks when hatched usually weigh about 112 ounces, those from the large breeds having an advantage.—Ex.

Carelessness in the little details necessary to good management will soon show in the condition, health and productiveness of the fowls. The more care and attention to their daily wants, the better their appearance and health, and the more cleanly they are

kept in well lighted and well-ventilated houses, and the more uniformly they are fed and watered, the better returns they will give their keepers. Remember this course of treatment always brings the best results.

Young chickens, like young turkeys, are injured—often fatally—by being exposed to heavy dews or rain until they are a month or six weeks old. Chickens should not be permitted to range in wet grass in the early morning, and they should never be left out of the shelter of their coops on a cold rainy, or stormy day.

Give the young broods special care in the way of watering and feeding. Never allow feed to lie around and get sour or dirty; fill the water vessels two or three times a day with fresh, clean water.

Do not imagine that handling eggs during incubation will prevent hatching. With care, eggs may be handled every day, and not the slightest harm result therefrom. Should any of the eggs get broken in the nest, wash the rest in warm water and clean out the nest, for an egg that is daubed with the contents of another egg will not hatch. During the last week of incubation the eggs should be sprinkled (when hen comes off the nest) every other day with warm (not hot) water, which will be a great help in enabling the little chick to break through the shell easily.

Mr. J. F. B., of Sutton, N. C., writes: 1st. "Where can I get a pair of silver wyandottes, or a setting of eggs, and at what price?" 2d. What is best thing for gapes in young chickens? 3d. Do you know of anything that can be given young chickens without injuring them that will kill the hawks if they eat the chickens? 4th. What or whose works do you consider best on poultry?"

In reply to first question, would say that the silver wyandottes or their eggs can be procured of Jno. D. Haywood, Raleigh, N. C., at — per trio, or eggs \$3 per setting. 2d. There are a great many remedies recommended for gapes, some of which are very good; a piece of gum camphur about twice the size of a pea, placed in a plate of water for them to drink, is said to be a sure cure. Also a teaspoonful of spirits turpentine mixed in a pint of meal, and the whole mixed well, and then mixed with water, using just enough water to hold the meal together and fed once or twice per day (not on the ground, but on a plank) is also said to be a great preventative, and in some cases a sure cure. There are some poultry powders which are recommended very highly for cholera, gapes, &c.; among them the Thomas poultry powder, manufactured by W. G. Thomas & Co., Raleigh, N. C. We are personally acquainted with the manufacturers, and take pleasure in recommending it as the equal, if not the superior, of any poultry powder we know of, and would advise you to try it.

3d. There is a poison which can be given to young chickens which will not kill the chicks, but will kill the hawks if they eat the chickens; but it is hard to get and very dangerous to handle, and we would not recommend that course in order to get rid of the hawks, but would rather offer a reward of 25 cents for each hawk, old or young, and by that means we think it would not be long before some one would take upon himself the responsibility of killing all of them in the neighborhood. We know a party in Harnett county who tried poison, and many other things to get rid of them, but did not succeed until he offered a reward of 25 cents for the head of each hawk, and he told us that after paying out about \$6 he got rid of them. He said his neighbors joined him in the expense, and by that means they got rid of them successfully. We know of nothing better for them than powder and lead.

4th. We consider "Felch's Poultry Culture" the best and most practical book on poultry, he having been a practical and successful poultry breeder for the past four years, devoting the whole of his time to it. It is published and for sale by J. K. Felch & Son, box 272, Natick, Mass.

THE MORTGAGE.

We read in a biography, recently, of some distinguished and successful man, that he said that a small mortgage that he placed on his first humble home was the making of him. We have read in a great many places of mortgages having been the unmaking of an immense number of people.

Some writer with a touch of humor in him speaks of this innocent bit of writing in this wise: "A mortgage is a queer institution. It makes a man

rustle, and it keeps him poor. It is a strong incentive to action, and a wholesome reminder of the fleeing months and years. A mortgage also represents industry, because it is never idle and never rests. It is like a bosom friend, because the greater the adversity the closer it sticks to a fellow. It is like a brave soldier, it never hesitates at charging nor fears to close in on the enemy. It is like the sand bag of the thug, silent in its application but deadly in its effect. Like the very hand of Providence, it spreads all over creation and its influence is everywhere visible. It is like the grasp of the devil-fish, the longer it holds, the greater the strength. It will exercise feeble energies and lend activity to the sluggish brain. No matter how hard the debtors work, the mortgage works harder still. It makes a fellow sour, cross, selfish, unsociable and miserable, and rarely does him any good, only to exercise him."

We are constrained to admit, and with great regret, that is pretty near the truth, and yet it does not seem, as in the first case mentioned, that the mortgage is an unmitigated evil. Some people need spurring up and are susceptible of it. To such it is an actual benefit to have something to arouse them out of the apathy and contentment that often attends only moderate success. But all the same we should not advise any one to mortgage his property for the sake of supplying himself an incentive.

Very unfortunately the mortgage is very common. How many of the farms in this country are mortgaged; or to put it in stronger terms, how few farms are not mortgaged, is a thing that will probably never be known. And there is a very strong and general feeling of hostility growing up against the holders of mortgages on farms all over the country, be they individuals or corporations. We are free to say that we regard the rates made on a great many mortgage loans as usurious and in many cases it is easy to see the end from the beginning, viz.: foreclosure. But at the same time let all men remember that there are two parties to every mortgage. The money lender does not go to look for the farmer, but the farmer for him, and therefore, since it is a voluntary action of the owner that a farm becomes mortgaged, however much the owner may regret the mortgage, it is foolish and wrong for him to blame the holder of it any more than himself.

Indeed we sometimes think, however much sympathy we may have for men oppressed with debt, that if they would all allow it to act more as in the case of the man we first spoke of and serve as a spur to vigorous work and economy, and less as a depressing incubus, there would be less occasion for farmers to cry out against it. Mere complaints without action not only do no good, but great harm. A man may work himself up into feeling that he is a martyr because he has borrowed money on his farm. He may have been a fool, but never a martyr, and it is a very unhealthy kind of feeling for a man to indulge in when for any voluntary action of his own he blames somebody else.

If a man has a mortgage on his farm and it is not hopelessly overwhelmed, the thing he ought to do is to try to get a lower rate of interest, if he is paying a high one. The way to do it is to put his farm in such good shape that he can borrow money at a lower rate and pay it off. In order to do this it will be necessary to show to some one who will lend money, that the farm is well worth the money and the farmer an industrious, thrifty one, and prompt payer of interest. Such a farmer can easily borrow money at rates that even farming will justify. If you are mortgaged remember these things.—St. Louis Journal of Agriculture.

THE FARMERS WOULD MAKE A GRAND RALLY!

Let the lawyers have a little rest during the summer campaign and let them for once in their lives show modesty and gracefully yield to a man, true and tried, whose name is a bulwark of strength amid the honest yeomanry, Capt. S. B. Alexander, who could ably fill the gubernatorial chair. If Capt. S. B. Alexander were nominated the farmers would rally to his support and make a successful farmer, an able man and wise legislator our next Governor. We have no axe to grind, but desire the farmers this one time their rights assert at the ballot-box. No lawyer can truthfully say that he is not the intellectual peer of Gov. Scales.—Shelby Aurora.